

## Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ F. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: September 26, 2007

**Topic:** First Review of a Request for a Continued Rating of Conditionally Accredited from Sussex County Public Schools for Annie B. Jackson and Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary Schools

**Presenter:** Mrs. Kathleen M. Smith, Director, Office of School Improvement, Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement  
Dr. Charles Harris, Superintendent, Sussex County Public Schools

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### Origin:

\_\_\_\_\_ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

X Board review required by  
\_\_\_\_\_ State or federal law or regulation  
X Board of Education regulation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Action requested at this meeting    X Action requested at future meeting: Final Review at Future Meeting

### Previous Review/Action:

\_\_\_\_\_ No previous board review/action

X Previous review/action  
date October 25, 2006  
action Board granted a rating of Conditionally Accredited to both schools

### Background Information:

8 VAC 20-131-300.C states that a school shall be rated Accreditation Denied based on a school's academic performance during academic years ending in 2006 and beyond, if it fails to meet the requirements to be rated Fully Accredited, for the preceding three consecutive years or for three consecutive years anytime thereafter.

As outlined in 8 VAC 20-131-315, as an alternative to the memorandum of understanding required for schools rated Accreditation Denied, a local school board may choose to reconstitute the school and apply to the Board of Education for a rating of Conditionally Accredited. The application shall outline specific responses that address all areas of deficiency that resulted in the Accreditation Denied status.

As defined by the Standards of Accreditation, "reconstitution" means a process that may be used to initiate a range of accountability actions to improve pupil performance, curriculum, and instruction to address deficiencies that caused a school to be rated Accreditation Denied that may include, but not be limited to, restructuring a school's governance, instructional program, staff or student population.

## **Summary of Major Elements**

Sussex County Public Schools has requested a continuation of the rating Conditionally Accredited based on a change in student population at Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary and Annie B. Jackson Elementary. Implemented last year, this change moved the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from Annie B. Jackson Elementary to Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary.

The English pass rate at Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary increased from fifty percent (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade) to seventy-three percent (3<sup>rd</sup> grade only). Mathematics pass rates increased from forty-one to ninety-three percent. The English pass rate at Annie B. Jackson Elementary School increased from fifty percent (3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade) to sixty-five percent (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades). Mathematics pass rates increased from forty-one percent to fifty-nine percent.

The letter requesting the continued rating of Conditionally Accredited indicates that the school division is continuing its efforts to close those schools, but has not been successful in receiving funding from the Board of Supervisors to consolidate its elementary schools into one modern school. Efforts will continue to restructure the grades at Jackson Elementary while continuing to seek the construction of the new elementary school.

The following recommendations are indicated for both Annie B. Jackson Elementary and Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary:

1. The department will appoint an auditor through the academic review process or the PASS program to monitor the implementation of the school's reconstitution efforts monthly.
2. LEA staff assigned to work with the school throughout the year will attend in-service provided by the department regarding district support and the district framework needed to restructure and support low-performing schools. This in-service will be provided by the Virginia Foundation of Educational Leadership, the Appalachian Regional Comprehensive Center, and the Center for Innovation and Improvement.
3. The division will adhere to any additional recommendations indicated in the Conditional Request and Follow-up form or by the auditor throughout the year and will comply with any reporting requirements requested (submission of ARDT data on a regular basis, monthly reporting to the board).

Additionally, the board makes the following recommendations for both schools: Committee to report monthly to the superintendent and provide a copy of the report to the assigned PASS coach. The coach will follow the reading and mathematics programs closely and make recommendations to the superintendent regarding the program's continued implementation and/or modifications that are needed in order to ensure that student achievement is improved.

### **Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the continued request for a rating of Conditionally Accredited from Sussex County Public Schools for Annie B. Jackson and Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary Schools.

### **Impact on Resources:**

None

### **Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

Final action will be requested at a future meeting.

Virginia Department of Education  
Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement  
Conditional Request & Follow-Up

Name of Division: Sussex County		Name of School: Annie B. Jackson Elementary	
Title I: Yes	School Improvement Status: Corrective Action		
Subjects Warned in 2005: English, Mathematics, Science		Subjects Warned in 2006: English, Mathematics, Science	
		Subjects Warned in 2007: English, Mathematics, History, Science	
Primary Reconstitution Request: Student Population		Additional Reconstitution Request:	
Committee Make-up			
Overview	This is the 2nd conditional request. Pass rates at grade 4 and 5 have demonstrated improvement in mathematics and English.		

PASS Rates	2006	2007
Grade 3 and 5 English (2006)	50	65
Grade 3, 4, and 5 English (2007)		
Grade 4 , 6, 7, 8, and EOC (2006)	61 (Grade 4 only)	
Grade 6, 7, 8 and EOC English (2007)		
Mathematics	41	59
Grade 3 History	64	
History	71	55
Grade 3 Science	60	
Science	44	50

#### Recommendations

The department recommends the following for each school requesting a rating of Conditionally Accredited:

- The department will appoint an auditor through the academic review process or the PASS program to monitor the implementation of the school's reconstitution efforts.
- LEA staff assigned to work with the school throughout the year will attend in-service provided by the department regarding district support and the district framework needed to restructure and support low-performing schools. This in-service will be provided by the Virginia Foundation of Educational Leadership, the Appalachian Regional Comprehensive Center, and the Center for Innovation and Improvement.
- The division will adhere to any additional recommendations indicated in the Conditional Request and Follow-up form or by the auditor throughout the year and will comply with any reporting requirements requested (submission of ARDT data on a regular basis, monthly reporting to the board).

Additionally, the board makes the following recommendations: Committee to report monthly to the superintendent and provide copy of the report to the assigned PASS coach. The coach will follow the reading and mathematics programs closely and make recommendations to the superintendent regarding the program's continued implementation and/or modifications that are needed in order to ensure that student achievement is improved.

Approved by Board of Education	
Assigned PASS/AR Auditor	
Monitoring Report Nov 30	
Monitoring Report Jan 30	
Monitoring Report March 30	
Monitoring Report May 30	

Virginia Department of Education  
Division of Student Assessment and School Improvement  
Conditional Request & Follow-Up

Name of Division: Sussex County		Name of School: Ellen W. Chambliss Elementary	
Title I: Y	School Improvement Status:		
Subjects Warned in 2005: English, Mathematics, Science	Subjects Warned in 2006: English, Mathematics, Science	Subjects Warned in 2007: English	
Primary Reconstitution Request: Student Population		Additional Reconstitution Request:	
Committee Make-up			
Overview	This is the 2nd conditional request. Pass rates at grade 3 have demonstrated improvement in mathematics and English.		

PASS Rates	2006	2007
Grade 3 and 5 English (2006)	50	73
Grade 3, 4, and 5 English (2007)		
Grade 4 , 6, 7, 8, and EOC (2006)	61 (Grade 4 only)	
Grade 6, 7, 8 and EOC English (2007)		
Mathematics	41	93
Grade 3 History	64	91
History	71	
Grade 3 Science	60	86
Science	44	

Recommendations
<p>The department recommends the following for each school requesting a rating of Conditionally Accredited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The department will appoint an auditor through the academic review process or the PASS program to monitor the implementation of the school's reconstitution efforts.</li> <li>▪ LEA staff assigned to work with the school throughout the year will attend in-service provided by the department regarding district support and the district framework needed to restructure and support low-performing schools. This in-service will be provided by the Virginia Foundation of Educational Leadership, the Appalachian Regional Comprehensive Center, and the Center for Innovation and Improvement.</li> <li>▪ The division will adhere to any additional recommendations indicated in the Conditional Request and Follow-up form or by the auditor throughout the year and will comply with any reporting requirements requested (submission of ARDT data on a regular basis, monthly reporting to the board).</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, the board makes the following recommendations: Committee to report monthly to the superintendent and provide copy of the report to the assigned PASS coach. The coach will follow the reading and mathematics programs closely and make recommendations to the superintendent regarding the program's continued implementation and/or modifications that are needed in order to ensure that student achievement is improved.</p>

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